IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A tripode joint comprising:

an outer joint part ~~(11)~~ with a first longitudinal axis (A11) and having an inner recess ~~(14)~~ and three uniformly circumferentially distributed recesses ~~(15)~~ which widen said inner recess ~~(14)~~ and which form pairs of circumferentially opposed tracks ~~(16)~~;

a tripode star ~~(12)~~ with a second longitudinal axis (A12) and having a hub ~~(17)~~ and three uniformly circumferentially distributed tripode arms ~~(19)~~ which are arranged radially at said hub ~~(17)~~ and which each form an arm head ~~(21)~~ with a spherical surface portion ~~(22)~~; and

a roller assembly ~~(13)~~, on each of the arm heads ~~(21)~~, each of the roller assemblies ~~(13)~~ being guided in one of the recesses ~~(15)~~, and each roller assembly ~~(13)~~ comprising an annular roller carrier ~~(23)~~, bearing needles ~~(24)~~ rotating on the roller carrier ~~(23)~~, ~~and rollers~~ a roller ~~(25)~~ which ~~are~~ is rotatably supported on the bearing needles ~~(24)~~,

wherein the roller carriers ~~(23)~~, on their inner faces, each comprise a cylindrical arm contact face ~~(40)~~ and, on their outer faces, a cylindrical needle contact face ~~(41)~~,

wherein the roller carriers ~~(23)~~ are arranged on the arm heads ~~(21)~~ so as to be pivotable and displaceable along an arm axis (AZ) and wherein the rollers ~~(25)~~ roll on the tracks ~~(16)~~ with roller axes (AR) which are substantially axis-normal relative to the first longitudinal axis (A11),

wherein the roller carriers ~~(23)~~, on their outer faces, each comprise stop collars ~~(38, 39)~~ which delimit the needle contact face ~~(41)~~, and which are held with an axial displacement clearance (SA) in the direction of the roller axes (AR) between axial securing members ~~(26, 27) in such a way that they are secured against being lost relative to the rollers (25) and~~ to permit translation of the roller carrier during joint articulation along the needle contact face over the axial displacement clearance (SA),

wherein the roller carriers ~~(23)~~, on their inner faces, with reference to the first longitudinal axis (A11), at least on the radial inside end, each comprise cylindrical

projections ~~(42)~~ which, with reference to the roller axes (AR), increase the axial length of the arm contact faces ~~(40)~~ beyond the extension of the needle contact faces ~~(41)~~, and

wherein the axial securing members comprise at least one securing ring which engages an inner annular groove in the rollers.

2. (currently amended) A tripode joint according to claim 1, wherein, on the roller carriers ~~(23)~~, with reference to the first longitudinal axis (A11), on their radial outside end, the arm contact faces ~~(40)~~ and the needle contact faces ~~(41)~~ are flush with each other.

3. (currently amended) A tripode joint according to claim 1, wherein the roller carriers ~~(23)~~, with reference to the first longitudinal axis (A11), on the radial outside end, each comprise cylindrical projections ~~(43)~~ which, with reference to the roller axes (AR), increase the axial length of the arm contact faces ~~(40)~~ beyond the extension of the needle contact faces ~~(41)~~.

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) A tripode joint according to claim 1, wherein, at the roller assemblies, the axial length of the cylindrical projection ~~(42)~~ and the amount of the axial displacement clearance (SA) are dimensioned to be such that, with a joint articulation angle of at least 27°, the spherical surface portions ~~(22)~~ of the arm heads ~~(21)~~ are able to establish a carrying contact with the arm contact faces ~~(40)~~ of the roller carriers ~~(23)~~.

8. (currently amended) A tripode joint according to claim 2, wherein, at the roller assemblies, the axial length of the cylindrical projection ~~(42)~~ and the amount of the axial displacement clearance (SA) are dimensioned to be such that,

with a joint articulation angle of at least 27°, the spherical surface portions ~~(22)~~ of the arm heads ~~(21)~~ are able to establish a carrying contact with the arm contact faces ~~(40)~~ of the roller carriers ~~(23)~~.

9. (currently amended) A tripode joint according to claim 3, wherein, at the roller assemblies, the axial length of the cylindrical projection ~~(42)~~ and the amount of the axial displacement clearance (SA) are dimensioned to be such that, with a joint articulation angle of at least 27°, the spherical surface portions ~~(22)~~ of the arm heads ~~(21)~~ are able to establish a carrying contact with the arm contact faces ~~(40)~~ of the roller carriers ~~(23)~~.

10. (currently amended) A tripode joint according to claim 1, wherein the displacement clearance (SA) amounts to at least 5% of the carrying length of the bearing needles ~~(24)~~.

11. (currently amended) A tripode joint according to claim 2, wherein the displacement clearance (SA) amounts to at least 5% of the carrying length of the bearing needles ~~(24)~~.

12. (currently amended) A tripode joint according to claim 3, wherein the displacement clearance (SA) amounts to at least 5% of the carrying length of the bearing needles ~~(24)~~.

13. (currently amended) A tripode joint according to claim [[4]] 1, wherein the displacement clearance (SA) amounts to at least 5% of the carrying length of the bearing needles ~~(24)~~.

14. (currently amended) A tripode joint according to claim 7, wherein the displacement clearance (SA) amounts to at least 5% of the carrying length of the bearing needles ~~(24)~~.

15. (currently amended) A tripode joint according to claim 1, wherein the displacement clearance (SA) amounts to at least 10% of the carrying length of the bearing needles ~~(24)~~.

16. (currently amended) A tripode joint according to claim 7, wherein the displacement clearance (SA) amounts to at least 10% of the carrying length of the bearing needles ~~(24)~~.